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NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 1922.

# Personal News, Facts, Fancies and Brief Happenings Abroad as Told by the Cables

## PRINCE BERNARD BARS AS SWINDLER, GIVES TITLES TO JAILMATES

Vitalval Claims Throne of Transcaucasia in Regal Message.

## DUCHESS CAUSES ARREST

Dancer, Whom He Intended to Marry, Told of His Cheating Riviera Tourists.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Dec. 31.

Five months in jail for swindling susceptible Riviera tourists has not convinced Louis La Forge, a French adventurer, that he is not entitled to the throne of Transcaucasia. After a long forced silence this monomaniac, who believes himself divinely chosen to guide the destinies of all Georgian and Caucasian tribes, has sent out a New Year message to which he signs himself "Prince Vitalval and King" and in which he assures all his benighted subjects that the time is at hand when he will enter into triumphant possession of his realm.

The message distributes New Year's honors liberally to Riviera residents who have befriended him. The printer, who was not paid for the state proclamation, which is luxuriously engraved, finds himself elevated to the rank of count and decorated with the Grand Cross of Transcaucasia, with the eagle, an honor which, however, is not recognized in any diplomatic corps. But Louis, who has big ideas, confesses that he is negotiating with a "great Power" for the benefit of his subjects, as too many smaller nations, jealous of "Prince Vitalval's" popularity, are struggling to get hold of the ancient territories.

## Princo's Cabinet Reorganized.

"Princo Vitalval" has reorganized his cabinet on a business basis, with the Marquis de Subera, who was elevated recently because of his efficiency, taking on the duties of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Baron Lesage de Villot on the duties of Minister of the Interior. These two characters, though, are unknown to any European chancelleries and are generally believed to be charged with the duties of the would be regent.

As "Princo Vitalval's" cash box is perpetually empty he has no need yet for a finance minister. The "regal" message to his distant subjects clears up the mystery of a reported break between the "King" and a dame to whom he gave the title of Grand Duchess Mullooff, although Parisian and South France dance halls have known her for years under the more common name of Clementine Parapout.

"Princo Vitalval" intended to marry her and share the throne with her, but when he was arrested last summer, it was Clementine who gave the police the details that landed him behind the bars.

## Blame Laid to Grand Duchess.

"But there is some good in everything," the "King" said philosophically, "and the political persecution to which I have been subjected showed me the infidelity of the Grand Duchess and her unwomanly conduct. I have therefore repudiated her and withdrawn her titles by royal decree, duly countersigned by the chancery."

Clementine has resumed her dancing career.

## HUSBAND AND WIFE ALTERNATE IN PULPIT

Ordained Ministers in English Congregational Church.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, London, Dec. 31.

On New Year's Day a husband and wife here will begin a joint ministry in the Congregational church in Maidstone. They are the Revs. Claude M. and Constance Mary Colman. They were fellow students at Oxford and were married the day after Mrs. Colman was ordained a minister in 1917. She says she is the only woman who is officially a minister of a church of any denomination in this country. She insisted preaching was a woman's work and that the only reason there were no women ministers in the church was that the men did not realize the immense opportunities offered to them for service in this field.

Mr. and Mrs. Colman intend to alternate in the pulpit. When he delivers the sermon she will assist him and vice versa.

## FRENCH STANDARD METER UNCHANGED

Utmost Variation Has Been 13 Ten-millionths.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Dec. 31.

Although the franc unfortunately is no longer a franc, the meter is still a meter. Recently it was declared that the standard meter measure kept in the International Bureau of Weights and Measures had not realized the hundredth of an inch in length, probably due to the fact that there was more heat this year than normally. This was particularly annoying to French physicists, inasmuch as Japan has just adopted the French standard of measure.

M. Guillaumin, a prominent scientist, has now stopped these rumors by his report to the Academy of Sciences, in which he declares that only the meter was usually employed for purposes of comparison had lengthened for some unknown reason, but that the real standard composite metal bar measure had not changed enough to write about the smallest variation being thirteen ten-millionths.

## GERMAN MASTIFF, GOOD ACTOR, HAS SENSE OF HUMOR

Theodore Zell Describes Talents Possessed by His Dog Tom.

## AIMS TO KEEP THE PEACE

Shows Teeth and Springs Between Persons Whom He Sees Quarreling.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Berlin, Dec. 31.

Attention here has just been directed to the mental development of certain animals by an astonishing description by Theodore Zell of the talent for acting possessed by a German mastiff named Tom, which he owns. At the same time a book by Herr Zell on "Our Domestic Animals" may serve to stimulate a fresh interest in this field of German science.

Tom, however, is not so enlightened as was his famous predecessor, Rolf, an Alsatian belonging to a Mannheim attorney, for Rolf learned to read and spell and was able to express himself in well formed sentences, which he signified with a paw in a code of his own devising. He was also a mathematician, being able to extract the square root of numbers, and he was a linguist, being able to speak several languages. He was also a philosopher, being able to distinguish between right and wrong, and he was a statesman, being able to keep the peace between persons whom he saw quarreling.

## Pacific Among Dogs.

Tom might be called the first pacifist among dogs, on account of his passionate interference when he sees some animal being beaten and because of his extreme dislike to quarrels.

Most interesting is his behavior. Herr Zell writes, when he has an opportunity to hide away in his large jaws some article, which he is sure will be needed by some one, he will bring it out when he sees a quarrel. He will then show his teeth and spring between the combatants, and if they are not satisfied with his mediation, he will show his teeth and spring between them again. He will then show his teeth and spring between them again. He will then show his teeth and spring between them again.

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## Memorial Bells Ring on Vesle for H. H. Houston

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, New York, Dec. 31.

ON Christmas Day a chime of three bells pealed their first message of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men" from the tower of the little church at Arcis-le-Ponsart, near the river Vesle. The bells were presented to the church by Samuel Frederic Houston, of Philadelphia in memory of his son, Henry Howard Houston, who was mortally wounded in the fighting near the town in 1918. On one bell is the word Henry, on another Howard and on the third Houston, and on each is inscribed an appropriate verse. Mr. and Mrs. Houston have aided materially in the reconstruction work in this region.

## AUSTRIA MAY SELL FAMOUS TAPESTRIES

Gobelins Collection, Gift of French Kings, Worth 320 Billion Crowns.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Vienna, Dec. 31.

Old fashioned methods of loveliness with amorous sighs and timid compliments may receive a death blow at the hands of hypnotists, since hypnotism appears to be a quicker and more effective method, as is shown by papers in a law case which is to come before the Berlin courts in February.

Leopold Kilay, a professional hypnotist, is charged with having induced the wife of a well-to-do Berlin merchant, while under his hypnotic influence, to sell carpets belonging to her household, after which Kilay, it is charged, disappeared with the proceeds of the sale.

In her own defense against the charge of having sold the carpets without her husband's knowledge, the woman declared she did everything charged against her while she was in a trance and entirely under Kilay's hypnotic influence.

This is the second case to come before the German courts since the Kleppisdorff murder case, in which a man is on trial in connection with the murder of two young girls, in which hypnotism plays an important part. At the trial of the Kilay case the court room where it is heard is expected to resemble a medical congress, since numerous experts will express opinions.

In the fall of 1920 Kilay, it appears, hypnotized another woman, a well known dancer here, Doris Kaan, with the result that her marked antipathy for Kilay was suddenly changed into love.

Light has been shown on some of the characteristic features of Berlin life. A merchant named Valt, it appears, asked him to cure Mrs. Valt of the habit of falling morose and capricious. A merchant named Valt, it appears, asked him to cure Mrs. Valt of the habit of falling morose and capricious.

The proposal to pawn the collection is being widely discussed and resented by the Austrian press, but the consensus is that this step is unavoidable in view of the necessity which exists for raising money by whatever means in the country's power.

Herr Rosenberg, assistant minister of finance, stated in an interview he had obtained permission to pawn the tapestries when he went to London.

American were the only people considered in connection with obtaining credit with this collection as security, but it is believed here that large American financiers do not wish to lend money on art objects.

Herr Rosenberg said, however, the Government hoped to be able to use the money received from the sale or the pawning of the collection to stabilize the price of exchange of the Austrian crown.

If it should not be possible to pawn the tapestries the question of borrowing money on the Austrian tobacco monopoly or a lien on the customs receipts is being discussed.

Newspapers here report that the Armstrong-Vickers firm in England may purchase the Austrian tobacco monopoly, which has been idle since the war, for the manufacture of railroad locomotives and trucks for the Balkan States.

Waterloo is no longer to bear its historic name. In the future it will be known as Lonsch. Such is the well meaning but doubtful compliment paid to France by the Belgian General commanding in the annexed German district of Malmedy.

He discovered that the village, towns and mills were named after the famous battle and others after St. Helena. He apparently thought that the French are in now much exercised over the gambling question. Six well known gambling houses where bacaret and chemin de fer are played every night carry on business without interference by the police. These places are called "clubs," but it is not difficult for a stranger to gain admission to them if he has enough money. They continue from luncheon time until 6 o'clock in the morning. Heavy losses in these places were said to have caused more than one suicide recently.

One well known writer here openly declares these gambling houses are under the protection of Senators and other high placed men, and therefore, they are not raided by the police. He gives the names of the persons who give the authorities sufficient power to close them.

Following the disclosure of the open traffic in cocaine and hashish, French public opinion is now much exercised over the gambling question. Six well known gambling houses where bacaret and chemin de fer are played every night carry on business without interference by the police. These places are called "clubs," but it is not difficult for a stranger to gain admission to them if he has enough money. They continue from luncheon time until 6 o'clock in the morning. Heavy losses in these places were said to have caused more than one suicide recently.

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## BERLIN COURTS SEE HYPNOTISM PLAYING AN UNUSUAL ROLE

How Far It May Cause Crime Considered in Two Cases.

## WOMAN OFFERS EXCUSE

Declares Specialist Compelled Her to Sell Husband's Carpets.

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## ABBE LE MIRE BACKS BROTHERLY PARENTS' WEDDING AUTHORITY

French Deputy Says Law at Present Keeps Down Birth Rate.

## CONDITIONS GET WORSE

Clergyman Believes Much Can Be Said in Favor of Hasty, Impetuous Unions.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Dec. 31.

One of the French old traditions are being cast aside. One of the latest to be attacked, and by no less a person than Abbe Jules Le Mire, member of the Chamber of Deputies from the Department of the Nord, is the "Act of Respect," whereby marriages cannot be celebrated in France unless the contracting parties obtain the permission of their parents. Abbe Le Mire has presented a bill in the Chamber of Deputies making marriage a matter that concerns only the contracting parties. He is confident that it will be passed both by the Chamber and the Senate and that as a result there will be a great increase in the number of marriages in France and a satisfactory increase in the population.

"Hundreds of marriages are not performed simply because the parents of the couples refuse their consent for petty reasons," Abbe Le Mire told a group of Deputies this week. "What is the result? Not being able to legalize their union many couples merely take up housekeeping without paying any attention to the Christian principle of legal marriage. Naturally, these couples are in a state of permanent unhappiness and women do all in their power to keep from bringing children into the world with a name that is not clear."

## Statistics Back Abbe's Stand.

Statistics relating to some of the crowded quarters of Paris show that the number of unmarried couples here are more than doubled since the armistice, a fact that has induced numerous parliamentarians to take up Abbe Le Mire's cause with enthusiasm.

The same classes of physical types have the same classes of finger tips, says, and even racial similarities can be observed. Long lived persons have different tips than short lived ones, from which fact, it is claimed, does not alter appreciably during a lifetime one might be able to determine accurately which individuals are destined to attain a ripe old age.

The examination of the insane which Prof. Pohl undertook led to some amazing results. He discovered that if a man had a certain number of loops on his finger tips it could be said point to point that he was born that he would become an idiot. And after finger and hand lines follow certain hereditary laws it might even be predicted how many weak minded children parents would produce.

Prof. Pohl, with the characteristic reserve of the scientist, declined to make any sweeping assertions, but he declared positively that further examinations along the lines of a reported prediction that the future of a nation could be enabled them to overcome little difficulties and to produce happy families."

It is expected that Abbe Le Mire will meet with some opposition in his measure, but the French Senate, where the staid patriarchs, jealous of their paternal privileges, already are characterizing the Abbe's measure as clerical anachronism.

## Merit in Hasty Marriages.

"Do you think a man is any wiser at 20 than he is at 25?" he asked. "Personally I think there is much to be said in favor of hasty, impetuous, precocious marriages, even if they are without the customary dowry. While parents may feel slighted if their children are not approved of the marriage of one of their children the results in a new family are invariably better, as two young persons forced to find consolation in each other naturally find a bond in real love that enables them to overcome little difficulties and to produce happy families."

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